

IDEA-0347

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12 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Roger Hilsman, Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State

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1. As a result of an invitation from Mr. Bissell to Mr. Hilsman, a briefing was conducted at 1717 H Street at 1330 hrs., 9 June 1961, for the purpose of acquainting Mr. Hilsman with our proposal to initiate limited U-2 flights from [REDACTED]. It was felt that a general briefing covering the technical aspects of the Agency's format for controlling air operations would be beneficial in assisting Mr. Hilsman to appreciate the Agency's competence for conducting air operations. The briefing consisted of a rundown on how the flight lines are selected for the CORONA program, the competency of personnel involved in mission planning, and the sequence of communications between the field and the Control Room. The above format was also used in reference to the IDEALIST missions presently being run over [REDACTED] operation. Each phase of the mission plan was covered in detail, and these included the actual mission plan itself in reference to drawing the flight lines, etc., the input of intelligence information, including AOB, ROB, etc., the weather considerations and the source of our weather data.

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2. Mr. Hilsman's general reaction was favorable, and I believe should be beneficial in our future dealings with his office. His parting comment concerned clearances for operations in reference to the 5412 group. He remarked that as much time as possible to study the situation should be given to the 5412 Committee and as much factual information as possible should be included in the presentation. He stated that the Committee is very reluctant to approve requests that are broad and generalized in their justification. Just prior to leaving, Mr. Hilsman indicated that he would discuss this particular aspect with General Cabell and Mr. Bissell.

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